



This Week from the Mayor



Armondo
Pavone,
Mayor

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My weekly newsletter covers all that is happening in Renton. If you have an idea, would like to share news, or want to comment, I'd like to [hear from you](#).

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Equity and Inclusion - building on our promise

This week I had my first meeting of the year with members of the [Mayor's Inclusion Task Force](#) (MITF) and discussed our 2020 accomplishments. Despite the pandemic, we had one of our most successful years. Our task force welcomed three new members and came together to address the needs of our community like never before.

At the very first signs of COVID-19, several members of our task force were there—first providing food to first responders at Valley Medical, then organizing grocery and other food drives for the community. This has been an ongoing effort as the demand has increased dramatically. Thank you!

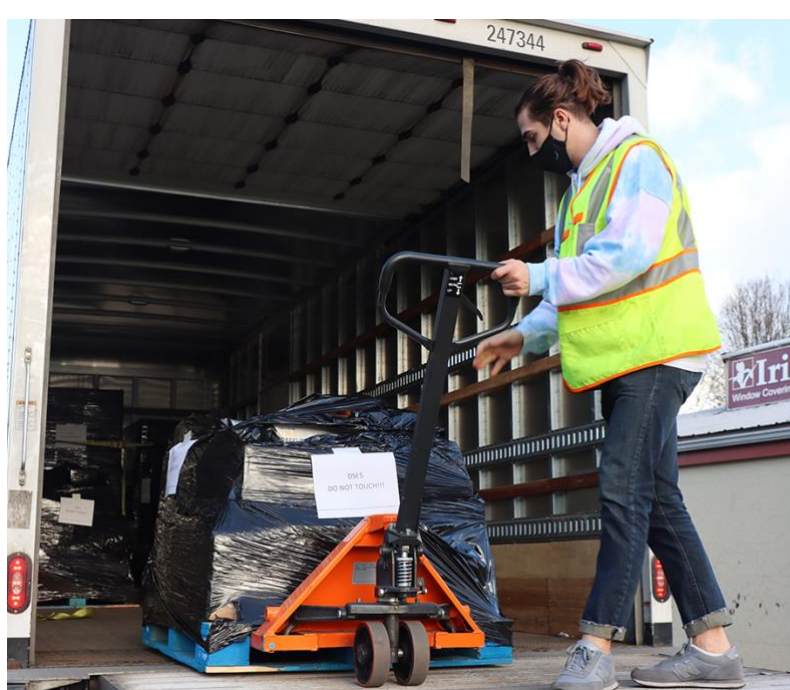
One of our greatest success stories of 2020 is our Census 2020 campaign. Our 2020 return rate topped 75% and was ahead of all our neighboring cities and the national average. We could not have achieved such success without our Mayor's Inclusion Task Force members, as they worked tirelessly in their communities to get the word out about the census.

We also worked with City Council on several important proclamations and resolutions last year to show our position as a community. At the start of the pandemic, we issued a proclamation to affirm our commitment to an inclusive community that rejects stigma and bias related to COVID-19. Subsequently, Council adopted [Resolution No. 4414](#) to "Stand Against Racism," stating our strong commitment to eliminate racial inequity. We also made substantial changes to our Business Plan to strengthen and expand our goal of inclusion and equity.

To recognize the LGBTQIA+ community, [we raised the special "Philly Flag"](#) with added black and brown stripes at City Hall from June 15-21 in support of Pride Month. The black and brown stripes are an inclusionary way to highlight black and brown LGBTQIA members and also to bring attention to issues faced by people of color within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Our showstopper in 2020 was our two-day virtual [Renton Multicultural Festival](#) with the theme "Unity in Hope." Showcasing some of the best music, dance, and other cultural performances, the festival first aired on November 7-8 and then again over the Thanksgiving weekend with viewers from around the world.

As we move forward, our partnership with the community is critical. The collaboration and assistance from the community will be invaluable in supporting social, economic and racial justice.



Amazon donated 24 pallets of food to last week's grocery giveaway.

Free grocery "stores" continue to help

Last Friday's free grocery giveaway coordinated by the [Coalition of Filipino American Organization of Washington](#) (COFAO) was a great success. Dozens of volunteers unloaded and prepared the items and packed vehicles. We appreciate all their work.

I want to add an enormous thank you to Amazon. Event volunteers put out a call to the company with a late request for additional items. Amazon heroically responded with 24 pallets of food to ensure the event's success.

Another organization, Sustainable Renton, has operated [a free grocery store](#) at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church (1700 Edmonds Ave NE) every Monday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. since March 2020. Their continued service to the community provides much needed assistance.

Unfortunately, a weekly trip to one of these events has become an all too common event for too many residents. But the vision and dedication of these organizations is a welcomed effort. They deserve our continued support and if you'd like to help, here are links to [COAFO](#) and [Sustainable Renton](#).



Viet-Wah Asian Food Market

“Get to Know Your Customers Day”

Excellent customer relations are more important today than ever, and businesses across Renton have been working overtime to keep relationships with their customers healthy.

Yesterday was "Get to Know Your Customers Day." To help celebrate, the Renton Community Marketing Campaign has prepared a look at four business owners who are proud to call Renton home:

- Leeching and Duc Tran, Viet-Wah Asian Food Market
- Jacqueline Nguyen, Papaya Silk Corporation
- Heng and Lange Woon, Common Ground Coffee & Cupcakes
- Miny Tafesse, Abyssinia Hair & Beauty Clinic

I hope you'll [take time to read their stories](#) and continue to patronize theirs and other local businesses.



The weather is always in focus

No one keeps a sharper eye on the weather than our public works street maintenance crews.

They've been [prepared for any event since October](#) including outfitting dump and flatbed trucks with plows, anti-icer tanks, and sanders. Fortunately they have not had to deploy their snowplows, but they have applied anti-icer when necessary to prevent ice building up on our roadways.

If or when a winter storm hits, please be assured that our crews are ready to keep the streets as safe as possible.